

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1968



SECTIONAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH

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CHIEF OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1906

BUCKLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEMBERSHIP 1968/1969.

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Vice
Chairman - J. B. Widdrington Esq. J.P.

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The Public Health work of the Health Department is administered by the Health Committee which comprises the whole Council.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

W. Davidson-Lamb MC., MB., Ch.B. D.P.H.
Mountlands, The Mount, Altrincham.

Telephone No. 061-928 5323.

Chief Public Health Inspector

H. G. Milburn F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods.

Telephone No. Knutsford 4924-8.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

R. Egan M.A.P.H.I. Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector

A. Shawcross M.A.P.H.I. Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods.

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. E. Drinkwater.

Mountlands,
The Mount,
Church Street,
Altrincham.

TO: The Chairman and Members of the
Bucklow Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the health of
the district during the year 1968.

Dr. E. H. Gordon was your Medical Officer of Health until
he left in February and Dr. J. A. Leitch assumed responsibility
from then until my appointment on 3rd September.

Because I was in office for only the closing months of the
year I feel I must submit the report formally without comment.
Details have, in fact, been diligently covered by the report of
your Chief Public Health Inspector.

I am, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. DAVIDSON-LAMB.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area of the District in Acres	...	46,103
Registrar General's estimate of home population (mid-year)		21,410
Population (1961 Census)	...	17,299
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at 1st April		5,885
Rateable Value at 31st December 1968	...	£1,379,156
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£ 5,678

	<u>VITAL STATISTICS</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Total live births	...	360	378
Crude birth rate per 1,000 living	...	16.8	17.6
Standardised birth rate per 1,000 living	...	15.9	16.7
General birth rate (England & Wales)	...	16.9	17.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		9.0%	6.8%
Total still births	...	8	6
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births		22	16
Total live and still births	...	368	384
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	10	5
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 live births	...	28	13.2
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		30.5	14.2
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate births		NIL	NIL
Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births		19.4	13.2
Early Neo Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births		13.9	13.2
Perinatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births		35	28.6
Maternal Deaths	...	NIL	NIL
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births		NIL	NIL
Total Deaths	...	157	176
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 living	...	7.3	8.2
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 living	...	10.2	11.5
General Death Rate (England & Wales)	...	11.9	11.2
Deaths from Poliomyelitis	...	NIL	NIL
Deaths from Cancer	...	26	32
Deaths from Accidents	...	7	11
Deaths from Heart Diseases	...	46	52

The home population figure is used to calculate the crude birth and death rates and this is multiplied by a factor provided by the Registrar General to arrive at the standardised rates. This factor allows for the age and sex distribution of the population and enables a fairer comparison to be made between one district and another. For 1968 this factor is 0.95 for births and 1.40 for deaths.

B I R T H S.

	<u>1968</u>			<u>1967</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Live Births (legitimate)	167	161	328	352
(illegitimate)	<u>23</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>26</u>
	<u>190</u>	<u>170</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>378</u>
Still Births (legitimate)	3	3	6	6
(illegitimate)	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY

	<u>1968</u>			<u>1967</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 Year</u>				
(legitimate)	6	4	10	5
(illegitimate)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks

(legitimate)	5	2	7	5
(illegitimate)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

Deaths of Infants under 1 week

(legitimate)	3	2	5	5
(illegitimate)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - NIL.

The following table is included to show how the vital statistics compare with those during the past 37 years.

	Population	Total Live Births	Crude Birth Rate	Total Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Deaths of Infants under 1yr.	Cases of Maternal Mortality
Yearly Av. 1931 - 35	23,354	275	11.8	236	10.1	16	0.8
Yearly Av. 1936 - 40	9,304	151	16.2	115	12.3	7	1.5
Yearly Av. 1941 - 45	10,006	146	14.6	103	10.2	5	0.2
Yearly Av. 1946 - 50	10,614	162	15.2	112	10.5	5	0.6
Yearly Av. 1951 - 55	11,720	194	16.5	123	8.5	5	0
Yearly Av. 1956 - 60	12,596	220	17.2	124	9.7	3	0.2
Yearly Av. 1960 - 65	19,690	385	19.3	158	7.9	7	0
1966	21,240	390	18.4	185	8.7	6	0
1967	21,460	378	17.6	176	8.2	5	0
1968	21,410	360	16.8	157	7.3	10	0

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE YEAR 1968.

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>1968</u>			<u>1967</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	1	-	1	7
" " Lung, Bronchus	6	2	8	8
" " Breast	-	3	3	4
" " Uterus	-	-	-	1
Leukaemia	-	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	9	4	13	12
Diabetes Mellitus	1	2	3	2
Other endocrine etc. diseases	2	1	3	-
Anaemias	-	1	1	-
Other diseases of Nervous system etc.	2	1	3	27
Chronic rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease	27	10	37	39
Other forms of Heart Disease	3	5	8	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	9	18	27	-
Other diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3	7
Pneumonia	4	5	9	10
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	-	3	5
Other diseases of Respiratory System	3	2	5	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	3	1
Other diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1	-
Other diseases of the genito urinary system	-	1	1	1
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	1	-	1	-
Congenital abnormalities	4	1	5	-
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	-	1	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	1	2	-
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	2	3	21
Motor vehicle accidents	3	2	5	8
All other accidents	1	1	2	3
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1	-
All other external causes	-	1	1	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals (all causes)	88	69	157	176

COMMENTS ON THE CAUSE OF DEATH

The table below shows the age groups of the persons whose deaths were reported during the year :-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	5	2	7
4 weeks to 1 year	1	2	3
1 year to 4 years	2	1	3
5 - 14	3	-	3
15 - 24	-	2	2
25 - 34	2	1	3
35 - 44	1	3	4
45 - 54	8	5	13
55 - 64	18	8	26
65 - 74	24	11	35
75 and over	24	34	58
	<u>88</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>157</u>

76% of the deaths were of persons aged 55 and over which is 6% lower than in 1967 and 4% lower than in 1966.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the cases of infectious diseases, other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning, notified during the year and classified in age groups. Infective Jaundice first became notifiable on 1st July 1968 and the figures represent notifications received in the second half of the year.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>All Ages</u>	<u>Under 1 Year</u>	<u>1 to 4</u>	<u>5 to 14</u>	<u>15 to 24</u>	<u>25 & Over</u>	<u>Age Unknown</u>
Measles	40	2	26	10	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	1	2	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	37	-	6	9	9	10	3

TUBERCULOSIS

1. Number of cases recorded at 31st December

			<u>1968</u>			<u>1967</u>		
			<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non Pul-monary</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Pul-monary</u>	<u>Non Pul-monary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Children	}		8	-	8	6	-	6
Males			31	-	31	31	-	31
Females			25	3	28	28	3	31
			<u>64</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>68</u>

2. Number of new cases notified during 1968 as compared with the previous year:-

Children	}	2	-	2	-	-	-
Males		3	-	3	4	-	4
Females		-	-	-	1	-	1
		<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5</u>

3. Number of deaths of persons on the register :- NIL.

FOOD POISONING

A local Veterinary Surgeon notified the Council's Health Department that he had submitted faecal specimens from two cows suffering from 'scours' for laboratory examination and the report showed that Salmonella Dublin was present. He reported that the Cowman at the farm was suffering from diarrhoea and that his elder daughter was due to report to a Teacher Training College in Derbyshire the next day.

An immediate visit was paid to the farm and arrangements made for faecal specimens to be submitted by the Farmer, his wife and three children and the Cowman, his wife and two daughters. These were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory next day, when the two cows were sent for slaughter to a knacker.

The results showed that the Cowman was infected with Salmonella Dublin and so were his wife and elder daughter, the Farmer and the Farmer's eldest child, although the latter four were apparently not suffering from any symptoms. The College was notified at once and the Cowman's daughter was immediately sent home again. Her Father meanwhile, had to be admitted to Hospital because of his severe symptoms.

Examination of milk filter pads showed that although on one milking the infection was present, subsequent milkings were negative and the milk was free from infection. Nevertheless, it was all subjected to heat treatment before sale.

A joiner who had been employed at the farm the previous week and who had suffered from diarrhoea was examined but his stools proved negative, as did those of his wife and two children. He may or may not have had the same infection, but it was important to check this family because the wife is caretaker at the village school.

No other cases were reported and it is believed that the Council's prompt action resulted in the outbreak being contained as far as the public were concerned.

Meanwhile, the Veterinary Surgeon took rectal swabs from the rest of the herd and from the 25 to 30 calves on the farm. Infection with Salmonella Dublin was found in the calves which were being treated en masse because the specimens could not be identified with particular calves.

Three symptomless excretors of Salmonella Dublin were found among the cows remaining in the herd and these were disposed of by sale in a local cattle market.

The Council were very perturbed that these animals, known to be carrying an infection which is a well-known cause of human illness could with impunity be disposed of by sale in the open market, and it was conceivable that a similar outbreak would occur on at least one other farm as a result. Their concern was expressed in strong terms to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The Council's Officers were involved in a minor degree in investigations into the infection of broiler poultry at two farms supplying a packing station in Mid-Cheshire after a food poisoning outbreak in Liverpool had incriminated birds from the packing station infected with S. Virchow.

The infection was present in the birds at one farm but did not spread to the farmer, his family or his employees, all of whom were checked.

The outbreak served to indicate the dangers inherent in the largescale housing of poultry, and the importance of thorough cooking of table birds.

NATIONAL HEALTH ACT SERVICES & SERVICES
PROVIDED BY THE CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A. Services provided in accordance with the requirements
of the National Health Service Act 1946

1. Hospital Services

Controlling Body - Manchester Regional Hospital Board
Local Hospitals - Administered by North and Mid-Cheshire
Hospital Management Committee
Secretary - Mr. F. Fowden, Administrative Offices,
Altrincham Maternity Home, Sinderland
Road, Altrincham.

Hospitals serving this area

General Acute cases - Cottage Hospital, Knutsford
- Altrincham General Hospital
- Denzell Convalescent Hospital, Bowdon
General Chronic Cases - Cranford Lodge, Knutsford
Chest Clinic - St. Anne's Home, Woodville Road, Altrincham
Ear, Nose & Throat - " " " " "
Infectious Diseases - Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester

A large number of cases from Bucklow are treated in the greater Manchester Area Hospitals.

2. General Practitioner & General Dental Services

Controlling Body - National Health Service Executive Council for Cheshire.
Clerk - Mr. F. Hayter, 28 Nicholas Street, Chester.

3. Services of Local Health Authority - Cheshire County Council

1. Maternity & Child Welfare
2. Domiciliary Midwifery & Home Nursing
3. Immunisation and Vaccination
4. Care and After Care
5. Home Help Service
6. Ambulance Service
7. Dental Service - Expectant & Nursing Mothers
pre- school children
8. Mental Health Service
 - (a) Senior Mental Welfare Officer - Mr. J. Thompson,
59 Washway Road, Sale.
 - (b) Junior Training Centre - Navigation Road, Altrincham.
 - (c) Adult Training Centre - Altrincham.
9. Chiropody Services - Old People, handicapped persons and expectant Mothers.
10. Handicapped Persons Club - Y.W.C.A. Altrincham.

The Altrincham Divisional Health Committee covers the Borough of Altrincham, the Urban Districts of Bowdon, Hale & Knutsford and the Bucklow Rural District, and includes members of those Authorities, Members of the County Council and co-opted members.

Divisional Medical Officer - W. Davidson-Lamb, MC.MB.Ch.B.DPH.
Mountlands, The Mount, Altrincham.
Tel. 061-928 5323.

B. Other Services by other Committees of Cheshire County Council

1. Education Committee - School Health Service, including School Dental Service.
2. Welfare Committee - Homeless, handicapped persons, provision for residential accommodation etc.
Area Welfare Officer - G. Woodburn, Stamford House, Stamford New Road, Altrincham.
3. Children's Committee - Provides for the care of Deprived Children, i.e. children not under parental care.
Area Children's Officer - Mr. J. E. Blades, Stamford House, Stamford New Road, Altrincham.

Council Offices,
Mobberley Road,
Knutsford.

TO: The Chairman and Members of
The Bucklow Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of my department during 1968.

Unlike the previous year there was no serious invasion by gypsies and tinkers but there were other problems and the year was marked by the opening in September of the open-air market at Partington. No other task entrusted to the department has so monopolised the time of the staff and it may be some two years before things settle down to a more or less steady routine.

Earlier in the year an outbreak of Salmonella infection believed to have started with two cows at a farm showed the difficulty of dealing with this all too common infection in farm animals.

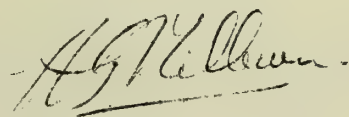
The Public Enquiry into the proposal by Shell Chemicals U. K. Ltd. to erect a second high chimney to serve proposed new boiler plants caused a great deal of local controversy. My own view is that chimneys of this height contribute minimal amounts of sulphur gases to the air near ground level and that thought should be directed to the many short stacks, both domestic, commercial and industrial, discharging sulphur gases in far from negligible amounts. If the low-sulphur fuels available could be diverted to these a real contribution to the reduction of sulphur in the air would result.

Even if the older commercial and industrial stacks could be raised to the heights which are required to-day for new stacks a significant improvement might result.

The completion of the attractive new estate of houses and bungalows at Carrington helped to restore the balance of accommodation in the village by providing for the older residents a substitute for the old cottages which were their homes earlier and which had become quite unfit over the years. Elsewhere the demand for housing continued to grow with the position becoming particularly acute in Partington, Mobberley and the Pickmere area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,



Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

Defects & Nuisances

A great deal of time was devoted as usual to the investigation of complaints but no statutory action was necessary. Recording of all complaints is not practicable, but a great many related to drainage problems, and offensive odours.

Demolition & Closure

No unfit houses were represented during 1968 for action under the Housing Act 1957 but arising from action in previous years 6 houses were demolished and 4 closed by the end of the year while 5 were made fit and the undertakings not to use them cancelled, and 3 which had been kept closed voluntarily by the owners were made fit. Due to conversions 5 fit houses resulted from the original 8 unfit ones.

Since 1955 a total of 143 unfit houses have been represented for Housing Act action and a further 22 dealt with informally. At 31st December 1968 the results were :-

No. of houses demolished	70
No. of houses closed	32
No. of houses made fit	42
No. of houses still occupied	21
	<hr/>
	165

The 21 houses still occupied included the following :-

Houses subject to demolition orders	1
Houses subject to undertakings not to re-let on vacation	20

Two aged occupants of these houses have no wish to be re-housed and only three other families were likely to be re-housed in 1969. Prospects for the remainder continue to be unhopeful.

Overcrowding

Overcrowding according to the Housing Act Standard is seldom encountered in the district but a number of families who were badly crowded applied for re-housing or for transfers from their existing Council owned houses to larger houses. Six such families were re-housed.

Certificates of Disrepair

No applications were received for certificates of disrepair and no action under the Rent Act was taken.

Improvement Grants

The Engineer and Surveyor deals with all applications for Discretionary and Standard Grants, but the Chief Public Health Inspector advises as to the suitability of houses for grant aid and indicates in each case the defects of repair needed to be remedied to meet the conditions of the Grant.

During the year Discretionary Grants totalling £4,515 were approved in respect of 13 houses, and Standard Grants were approved in respect of 23 houses to a total of £3,891.

New Houses

During the year 32 houses and bungalows were built in the district by private enterprise and 16 new Council dwellings were completed at Carrington. These consisted of 12 bungalows and 4 houses but since 6 of the bungalows were let to aged tenants living in houses the final effect was that 10 families and six elderly applicants on the housing list were re-housed.

The agreement reached in 1967 with Manchester Corporation for the sale to the Council of approximately 90 mixed dwellings forming part of an extension to the resettlement estate at Partington still stands, but the first of these will not now be completed before 1970. The Council have plans for mixed development at Partington and Mobberley on land owned by them. In both parishes warden-supervised old persons flatlets are proposed whilst in Partington the Cheshire County Council are to build Part III residential accommodation for old persons in addition. Building of the flatlets at Partington should commence in 1970.

Council House Lettings

The total dwellings owned by the Council at the end of 1968 was 791 made up as follows :-

	<u>Pre 1939</u>	<u>Post 1939</u>
Four bedroomed houses	12	43
Three bedroomed houses	95	547
Two bedroomed houses		4
Two bedroomed bungalows & flats		83(including 7 prefabs)
One bedroomed bungalows & flats		7
	<u>107</u>	<u>684</u>

In addition 2 houses held on short leases were sublet as Council accommodation.

The letting of these dwellings is a function of the Housing Tenancy Sub-Committee but the whole of the administration work involved falls on the Chief Public Health Inspector who deals with numerous tenancy matters.

During 1967 there were 16 first lettings of new dwellings and 22 re-lettings of houses to applicants on the housing list. Three families were re-housed from unfit houses.

Eight transfers and 3 exchanges between Council tenants were arranged as 1 mutual exchange with tenants of another Council. With 11 transfers of tenancies to the widows or daughters of deceased tenants or to the wives of tenants following separations a total of 64 new tenancies were created, 7 more than in 1967.

However, 120 new applicants were added to the housing list which stood at more than 283 when the annual revision was started in January 1968.

Caravans & Movable Dwellings

At 31st December the following caravan site licences were in force :-

Permanently licensed residential sites	-	10 (318 caravans)
Permanently licensed recreational sites	-	4 (187 caravans)
Conditionally licensed residential sites	-	19 (24 caravans)

One of the recreational sites, licensed for 30 caravans, has remained undeveloped. Two sites subject to discontinuance orders were still in use and attempts were made to close them, a third closed early in the year. A further Court hearing in respect of one of these resulted in the site owner being fined £100 but the site continued as before.

One bungalow structure at Pickmere was the subject of a demolition order in December but the work of improving conditions around Pickmere Lake continues to be slow and at least until the proposed sewerage scheme is completed no real improvement can be hoped for. The worst structures have now been removed, 82 by action under the Housing Acts and more than 120 by other means.

Six movable dwellings - not caravans, were re-licensed in December for a further year and although various other scattered huts are known to be used as week-end retreats, they appear to have such limited use as not to require licenses under the Public Health Act 1936.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the Rural District lies within the area of supply of the Manchester Corporation Waterworks Committee, whose Engineer & Manager has kindly supplied the following information :-

- (a) The water Supply to this area has been satisfactory in respect of quality and quantity.
- (b) 361 bacteriological samples were taken from consumers' taps in the Southern District of Manchester's distribution area which Bucklow forms part. 91.4% were coliform free and classed as excellent, 99.7% were free of coli type I, and in all cases where unsatisfactory samples were obtained repeat samples gave excellent results.

76 chemical analyses were carried out on samples taken from consumers' taps in the South District in 1968. A typical analysis on water taken from a consumer's tap in the district was as follows:-

Appearance	-	Clear, colourless, free from sediment.
Colour hazen	-	5
Turbidity, ppm. silica	-	1
pH	-	7.4
Total alkalinity as ppm. CaCO_3	-	16
Total hardness as ppm. CaCO_3	-	22
Calcium as ppm. CaCO_3	-	18
Chlorides, ppm. as Cl	-	8
Iron, ppm. Fe	-	0.07

Slight seasonal variations occur during the year, but the above figures may be regarded as typical.

The supply to the district is a mixture of waters from Thirlmere and Haweswater. The standard test for plumbosolvency has been applied to each, and both supplies gave satisfactory results. (Lime is added to water leaving Thirlmere and to water from Haweswater at Woodgate Hill, in order to correct any plumbosolvency of the raw lake water).

If bacteriological or chemical contamination is found additional flushing (additional to normal periodic flushing) is carried out, together with swabbing and, if necessary, re-sterilisation of the mains is carried out. During 1968 this was not necessary in the Bucklow area, although of course mains were re-sterilised as a matter of routine after any work had been carried out upon them.

- (c) The fluoride content of this water is less than 0.1 ppm.

From the figures given probably less than 30 permanent dwellings have no mains supply although this figure cannot be verified. In addition there

are a number of temporary dwellings without a supply, most of which are at Pickmere.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

The Engineer & Surveyor has kindly supplied the following information regarding sewerage in the district.

The surface water sewerage scheme to serve new development at High Legh was completed and work continued on the new sewerage and sewage disposal scheme at Rostherne. Considerable difficulties were experienced with unexpectedly bad ground conditions.

Work commenced on the third stage of the enlargement of the sewage disposal works at Partington in readiness for impending new development.

Preparatory work for the provision of new sewers at Warburton and Pickmere continued and were reaching an advanced stage by the end of the year. A start was made on the preparation of schemes for improvement of the sewage disposal works at Plumley and Tabley Superior. To follow these schemes consideration is to be given to schemes for the parishes of Ollerton and Over Peover where there is a pressing need to improve conditions.

So far as the Health Department is concerned the work involved in dealing with complaints of foul watercourses occupies a great deal of time and every extension of main drainage is welcomed.

The increase in these facilities tends to reduce the number of pail closets in use, as also does the implementation of the Improvement Grant provisions of the Housing Acts. The number of pail closets emptied each week had reduced from more than 1,300 in 1953 to around 500 by the end of 1968.

However, outside sewered areas, modernisation of houses increases the number of septic tanks, and during the year 279 loads of sludge and sewage were removed from 243 tanks, and 104 loads were removed from sewage works tanks giving a total income of £479. This work is carried out by the cesspool emptier in addition to pail closet collection and the long waiting list was never really cleared. A second machine was ordered for delivery in 1969.

MARKET SUPERVISION

On Monday, 9th September 1968 the new open-air market at Partington was officially opened and the first market was held the next day. The market then continued on Tuesday and Saturday each week supervised by one of the Public Health Inspectors each day.

Employees on the cleansing staff are engaged to set up the market and to dismantle it and sweep the area after closing. The original intention to erect and dismantle the complete stalls each market day proved impracticable because of the type of stall purchased and serious thought was given during the winter to ways and means of adapting the 60 stalls to give more adequate protection to the stallholders and their goods.

The organisation and supervision of the market entailed a great deal of work for the Department, and the Council's decision to appoint an additional Inspector in 1969 was welcomed.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collections of refuse and nightsoil continued on a weekly basis throughout the district with certain inevitable dislocations due to vehicle breakdowns and the difficulty of retaining suitable labour. Comparisons of the wage rates paid to the staff with those paid by industrial concerns in the vicinity make clear the reasons for the staff shortage.

Four vehicles operated in four geographical areas of the district, with a small vehicle tackling isolated properties, litter baskets, certain caravan

sites and special collections. This vehicle also tows the trailer used to transport abandoned cars to the Depot. A very large number of calls were made to collect bulky waste and garden waste.

A bulk loading vehicle, handling approximately 60 containers per day, gave more frequent collections from Manchester Airport, the M6. Motorway Service Area, Tatton Park, various works canteens, schools and hotels, and other large premises using the bulk container system. During the summer months this vehicle collects four times weekly at the Airport and Service Area.

The fourth of a fleet of 50 cubic yard vehicles was delivered in April and another was ordered for delivery in 1969 in furtherance of the policy of purchasing one new vehicle each year of modern types and maximum capacity.

Paper sacks are in use at about 800 houses at Partington and Carrington and it is hoped gradually to extend this system of refuse storage.

A leaflet setting out the service provided by the Council was distributed throughout the district. Facilities are available for residents to bring all types of waste to the Depot and the tip, and a great number of residents took advantage of these. Even more were given a free removal of bulky waste and, in Partington alone, an average of more than 30 calls were made each Saturday for this purpose.

In spite of these facilities, however, more and more rubbish was dumped on the roadsides, in ditches and in woodland, particularly in Partington and those parishes close to the adjoining urban areas.

One site in Carrington cost £120 to clear by contract and at Ringway 35 derelict cars and several lorry loads of miscellaneous rubbish were cleared from land which the owners declined to fence. More cars were soon dumped on the site and it appears that it is destined to become the recognised disposal ground for unwanted cars.

The problem of abandoned motor vehicles becomes more serious each year and the Council's Depot at Partington has become a receiving point for these.

The County Surveyor collects cars abandoned on lay-bys and roadside verges, and the Council's trailer is used to bring in cars from other semi-public sites, the commonest being the garage sites on housing estates. Private individuals bring their own cars, and sign surrender documents or pay the Council for collecting them. Disposal is free in all cases except where statutory charges can be recovered.

151 vehicles were collected at the Depot in this way and disposed of for scrap to a firm in Manchester specialising in crushing scrap cars, compared with 73 in 1967 and 30 in 1966.

All other refuse collected was tipped at a tip in the extreme south of the district which was filled by July and the new tip at Mobberley was started and used from then on.

Planning clearance was obtained after a wait of almost two years for the siting of an incinerator to be provided at Altrincham by five local authorities including the Rural District Council and a site survey was carried out by the Joint Committee by the Engineer and Surveyor to the Altrincham Borough Council. It was hoped to place the whole scheme in the hands of Consultants with a view to an application being made to the Ministry before the end of 1969.

AIR POLLUTION

The Council continued in membership of the Manchester Regional Clean Air Council and in November the Chairman of the Housing and Works Committee

was re-elected to membership of the Executive Committee.

Councillor Widdrington was also re-elected Chairman of the Joint Conference of Local Authorities on Air Pollution (region South West of Manchester) whose Technical Committee met three times during the year to discuss problems of mutual interest.

It was agreed to provide in the annual estimates for 1969/70 a sum for conversions necessary to the houses (mostly houses owned by the Council) to be included in the first smoke control area at Partington.

The Council agreed also to appoint an additional Public Health Inspector partly to enable a start to be made on this work during 1970.

The Minister's decision to permit the erection of a new triple-flue chimney at the Shell Chemical works at Carrington caused some concern to neighbouring authorities who had pressed for a condition as to the use of low sulphur fuel in the furnaces to be built. The decision is felt to have been correct considering the height of the stack because it will enable sulphur-free fuel to be burned under the lower stacks at these works.

Two plans were submitted of proposed new building works involving new chimneys. Amendments were necessary in both cases before approval could be given.

NOISE

Complaints were received of noise from three premises. One was the large works of Air Products Limited at Carrington which had been the subject of earlier complaints, but the firm have succeeded in reducing the noise from the plant to acceptable levels.

Another complaint arose from the testing of motor driven lawn mowers being overhauled and repaired in premises at Mobberley which were previously a cycle repair shop. This change of use did not in any way contravene planning law and perhaps there is a case for a tighter control of such change.

The third complaint resulted from the testing and starting up of new gas making plant and electricity generators to serve it at the Partington Gas Works. The Noise Abatement Act does not apply to statutory undertakers and no solution to this problem could be suggested.

MILK SUPPLIES

Nineteen distributors of milk trading from premises within the district are registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959. There was one fresh registration during the year.

The Cheshire County Council issue licenses to use Special Designations and the prior consultation which takes place before these are issued to new applicants is appreciated since it gives the District Council the opportunity to consider whether the premises to be used (frequently shops which do not fall to be registered as dairies) are suitable for the purpose.

The demand for untreated farm-bottled milk does not appear to be diminishing, and this may well be due to the higher price charged, giving the impression that it is necessarily better than pasteurised milk although it is difficult to understand why consumers are prepared to pay extra for milk which may very well be infected.

Accordingly, in addition to a number of producer-retailers of untreated farm-bottled milk there are several farmers bottling milk for sale by retail traders in adjoining towns. At the end of the year there were 15 dairy herds in the district from which milk was sold raw to the public.

The Cheshire County Council submitted 38 bulk farm samples and 82 Dealer samples of this milk for Brucella examination in every case and in many cases for Tuberculosis examination also. The numbers were lower than in previous years because no sampling was done in the early months due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic.

None were positive to Tuberculosis but three bulk samples and four dealer samples showed the presence of Brucella infection.

These positive samples involved three herds and during subsequent investigations the County Council sampling officer procured a total of 112 individual cow samples of milk.

In one herd, where infection had occurred in the past, three infected cows were found and removed from the herd and subsequent routine samples indicated that the herd was clear of infection.

A second herd not previously investigated came under suspicion in the autumn and prolonged sampling took place between September 1968 and July 1969 when the herd finally appeared to be clear, 9 infected cows being found.

In the third herd two cows were found to be infected and the herd appeared to be clear of infection by the end of October.

In these two latter cases only a small proportion of the milk is retailed untreated and although the farmers co-operated by ensuring that retail sales were restricted to ring test negative cows there is always the fear that these could become infected from others.

Not until eradication with compulsory slaughter of infected cows is introduced can the untreated milk supplies from such farms be considered reasonably safe.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are three private slaughterhouses in the district licensed annually on 1st July. All were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Statistics of the meat inspection work carried out are shown in the table which follows overleaf.

Compared with 1967 the number of animals slaughtered showed Cattle down by 139 and sheep and lambs down by 707 whilst cows were up by 49, pigs by 12 and calves by 265.

Unfit meat surrendered at the three slaughterhouses was estimated to weigh about 2 tons and, as the table shows, was chiefly offals.

For the eighth year in succession no Tuberculosis was found in cattle and only three pigs were found to be infected with this disease, probably the avian form.

CARCASSES & OFFAL INSPECTED & CONDEMNATIONS MADE

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	629	72	331	2976	583
Number inspected	629	72	331	2976	583
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	2	2	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	239	27	22	379	64
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	38%	40%	7.2%	12.1%	10.1%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	3
Percentage of the number inspected infected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.5%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD.(a) Foreign matter and mould

Eight complaints were investigated but in no case was prosecution deemed advisable.

Foreign matter was the subject of four complaints involving milk

(1) Cooked Meat (2) and bacon (1). The other three complaints were of mould in bread, cake and fruit.

(b) Surrendered Food

Only small quantities of unsound food were surrendered except on one occasion when a refrigerator failed at the kitchens of Manchester Airport

when it was necessary to ask for the surrender of the contents.

(c) Imported Food

The introduction of the new Imported Food Regulations in August produced a situation which caused some concern. The quantity of foodstuffs imported from overseas into Manchester Airport is not very great and could by no means warrant the full time presence of an Inspector and the removal of all responsibility from H.M. Officers of Customs and Excise to notify suspected irregularities left no alternative but to rely on informal arrangements with them and with Freight Agents in an attempt to ensure that no foodstuffs are imported in contravention of the Regulations.

During 1968 no action under the Regulations was necessary.

ICE CREAM

There is only one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the district who uses a complete cold mix. The premises are satisfactorily maintained.

There are 38 registered premises where Ice Cream is sold, all of which are included in the table of Food Premises. One new registration was made during the year.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table shows the different categories of Food Premises in the District subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations.

Category	Number	Wash hand Basins fitted to comply with Reg. 16.	Reg. 19 Applies	Sinks fitted to comply with Reg.19.
<u>Retail Shops</u>				
General Grocers	31	31	28	28
Butchers	5	5	5	5
Green Grocers	4	4	4	4
Fish Friers	3	3	3	3
Bakers	2	2	2	2
Confectioners	4	4	-	-
<u>Canteens</u>				
Factories	7	7	7	7
Residential Schools & Institutions	5	5	5	5
Day Schools (with kitchens)	9	9	9	9
Day Schools (serving only)	6	6	6	6
<u>Caterers</u>				
Restaurants, Cafes & Snack Bars	14	14	14	14
Public Houses and Licensed Clubs with Restaurants	15	15	15	15
Ice Cream Manufacturers	1	1	1	1
Total	106	106	99	99

There are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants and no poultry processing premises.

Inspections of perhaps half of these premises were made during the year mostly at the same time as an inspection for the purposes of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. The standard of the premises is generally extremely good and few serious contraventions were noted. Informal notices were served in respect of minor contraventions and all were remedied.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is only one public swimming bath in the area, although two private baths also operate. Being an open air bath the public bath is only in use during the summer.

The water is drawn directly from the mains and is subjected to continuous filtration and chlorination. One sample was taken and found to be satisfactory.

PET SHOPS.

Two premises are licensed annually under the Pet Animals Act 1951. One is a kennels and the other is run for the sale of tropical fish, with a very small trade in tropical birds.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Five establishments were re-licensed in December for the year 1969. Concern continued to be felt in respect of one kennels where conditions left much to be desired, but did not warrant legal proceedings for enforcement.

The local Inspector for the R.S.P.C.A. offered much valuable advice in connection with the various premises and most inspections are made in his company.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

17 renewal licences were issued to men engaged in slaughterhouses in the District.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employ a full time Pest Control Operator with independent transport who carries out all inspections and treatments required by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

Particular attention is paid to the Council's tips and sewage disposal works and test baiting was done on a proportion of manholes on each of the 16 sewer systems in the district, the results being negative in every case.

At the end of the year there were 23 contracts in force to a total of 247 at premises where the Council had undertaken rodent control on agreed terms. The premises covered by these contracts were 21 farms, 1 Riding School, 1 Stud, 1 Hotel, 1 large works, 7 trunk road laybys and a County Council Works Unit.

The table overleaf summarises the work done during the year. Minor problems crop up frequently, but on the whole occupiers co-operate very well, and although the District may never be entirely free of rats and mice, the general level of infestation is probably as low as present methods can achieve. The poison used in every case is Warfarin and no evidence has yet been found of rats developing resistance to it, but some mice appear to have resistance and other poisons are being used where this happens.

	Non Agricultural	Agricultural	Total
Properties in district	5975	460	6435
Properties inspected following complaint	223	20	243
No. infested by rats	133	17	150
No. infested by mice	84	12	96
Properties inspected in routine surveys	143	163	306
No. infested by rats	57	40	97
No. infested by mice	10	40	50
Total inspections made	446	267	713
Total treatments given	191	62	253

PEST CONTROL

The Pest Control Operator includes the control of other pests in his duties and the requests for assistance in dealing with pests appear to be increasing.

Records kept in detail from April onwards show that the following infestations were dealt with :-

Cockroaches	1	Bed Bugs	4
Crickets	4	Fleas	2
Flies	23	Mites	1
Ants	9	Beetles	1
Wasps	11	Earwigs	1

Most of the Fly treatments were at the refuse tips during the summer to ensure that infestation was kept to a minimum.

FARM SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

No action was taken during the year under the Agriculture (Health, Safety and Welfare Provisions) Act.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES

(a) Registration and Inspection

15 premises to which the 1963 Act applies were registered during the year 1968. At 31st December 186 premises were registered in the following categories :-

	<u>No. of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Employees</u>
Offices	94	1262
Retail Shops	47	239
Warehouses	2	11
Catering Establishments	43	719
	<u>186</u>	<u>2231</u>

54 of these premises received a general inspection during the year and a total of 60 visits were made. Most of these inspections were re-inspections.

(b) Contraventions

A total of 48 contraventions of the Act were noted compared with 126 in 1967, but most of these were of a minor nature and no difficulty was experienced in securing compliance. As in the past many occupiers were unaware of their obligations under the Act and it is rare to find an Abstract of the Act displayed on a first inspection. The reduction in the contraventions found reflects the effect of the earlier initial inspections. They are summarised below :-

<u>Contravention</u>	<u>No. of Premises</u>
Lack of cleanliness	6
Overcrowding	1
Inadequate temperature	2
Inadequate ventilation	1
Inadequate lighting	4
Inadequate or unsuitable toilets	9
Inadequate washing facilities	1
Inadequate drinking water supply	..
Absence of clothing accommodation	2
Absence of sitting facilities	-
Absence of eating facilities	-
Defective floors, passages or stairs	5
Unfenced dangerous machines	1
Absence of first aid equipment	4
Non-display of Abstract of the Act	12

(c) Accidents

Only 5 accidents were notified during the year of which three were investigated. Two involved falls, one resulted from slipping of heavy weights, one was an accidental knock and one occurred when handling a tool. None were fatal.

Concern was expressed following the receipt of two accidents which occurred at a large commercial premises. One resulted in fairly serious injuries while the other was not serious, yet in the first case the report was not necessary because the man was working in part of the premises not subject to the Act.

It is hoped that when the law is revised anomalies of this type will be removed. It is difficult to explain to an employer that the Act only applies to certain rooms and certain members of his staff.

FACTORIES

The attached appendix summarises in the prescribed form the work done under the Factories Act 1961.

With the exception of the small premises not using power the Council's sole function under the Factories Act is to ensure that the sanitary accommodation in factories is adequate and well maintained. Offices forming part of a factory are the responsibility of the Factory Inspectorate.

H.M.District Inspector notified 34 sites where contractors were carrying out works of building or civil engineering and a check was made on the sanitary accommodation of 22 of these.

All but one of the outworkers listed are women in Partington making up clothing for firms in Manchester in their own homes.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF
THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	No. of written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	3	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	3	3	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	34	22	1	-
TOTAL	80	25	4	-

2.

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

Nature of work	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Wearing)making apparel)etc	15	-	-	-	-	-
Other work	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in whole or in part done by outworkers	Prose- outwork
Wearing, making, repairing, etc.	15	-	-	-	-
Other work	-	-	-	-	-
Total	15	-	-	-	-